GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2923
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2016
Safety Audit of Atomic Power Plants
Roy Prof. Saugata

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government is considering to carry out a safety audit of all atomic power plants in the country;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether the Government is also considering to conduct a survey in the areas around atomic plants to understand the health and environmental implications; and

(d)if so, the details thereof and if not, the alternative measures put in place in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER''S OFFICE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):

(a)&(b)Yes, Sir. Periodic safety audit of all atomic power plants in India is carried out by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). All Nuclear Power Projects (NPP) undergo an elaborate in-depth safety review during all stages, viz. siting, construction, commissioning and operation. After satisfactory review during project stage, AERB issues operating licence to an NPP for a period of five years. During the licence period, safety performance of an operational NPP is continuously monitored for compliance with regulatory guidelines. A consolidated safety assessment of the plant is undertaken while renewing the operating licence after every five years. During the project stage of a power plant, quarterly regulatory inspections and during operation of a power plant, regulatory inspections are carried out by AERB once every six months. Further, all plants are required to undergo a comprehensive Periodic Review (PSR) as per the established guidelines, where the safety of the plant is assessed considering cumulative effects of ageing, plant modifications, operating experience as well as comparison with the current safety standards/practices.

(c)&(d) An independent Environmental Survey Laboratory (ESL) set up at each of the nuclear power plant site several years before setting up of the plant, regularly analyses environmental matrices like air, water, soil, vegetation, crops, milk, fish, etc. around each of the nuclear power plant (NPP) site. For all Nuclear Power Plants in the country, environmental impact assessments are carried out from both radiological and non-radiological (conventional) safety considerations. These assessments are reviewed by AERB and Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) before the necessary siting and environmental clearances to set up the NPP are given by AERB and MoEF, respectively.

Epidemiological surveys for health assessment in respect of employees working in close proximity of radiation and staying in the nearby residential complex and villages of each of the nuclear power plants in operation have been carried out by reputed local medical colleges and analysis has been carried out by Tata Memorial Hospital (TMH), Mumbai, a premier cancer research centre in the country. In addition, annual medical checkups are carried out for all occupational workers regularly.

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